

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 AID-05 ACDA-10 MC-02 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /105 W

----- 037305

R 061200Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6547

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2703

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, MPOL

SUBJ: DEFMIN PERES REPLIES TO KNESSET QUESTIONS ON EGYPT

1. DURING KNESSET SESSION MAY 5, DEFMIN PERES ANSWERED SEVERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING ISRAELI VIEW OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY PREPAREDNESS.

2. PERES SAID THAT IN PERIOD SINCE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT EGYPT HAD BUILT MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE ON EAST BANK OF SUEZ CANAL BIG ENOUGH TO CONTAIN ALL FORCES WHICH MIGHT CROSS CANAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH EGYPTIAN DEFENSIVE PLANNING. PERES SAID EGYPTIANS HAD CARRIED OUT INTENSIVE WORK IN SETTING UP FORTIFICATIONS, WHICH INCLUDED REVETMENT OF EMPLACEMENTS AND CONSTRUCTION OF BUNKERS AND DITCHES.

3. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS ON ARMS SUPPLY TO EGYPT, PERES SAID THAT IN RECENT MONTHS THERE HAD BEEN A RESUMPTION, AND CONSIDERABLE INCREASE, UNCLASSIFIED

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IN SOVIET SUPPLY OF WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, AND

SPARE PARTS TO EGYPT. HE ADDED THAT THE USSR CONTINUES TO SUPPLY EGYPT WITH MIG-23 AIRCRAFT, GROUND-TO-AIR AND ANTI-TANK MISSILES, TRUCKS AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT VEHICLES, AS WELL AS AMMUNITION AND SPARE PARTS FOR ARTILLERY, TANKS, AND AIRCRAFT. IN HIS OPINION, THE VOLUME OF SOVIET ARMS REACHING EGYPT IN LAST FEW MONTHS BELIES ALL SUGGESTION OF CRISIS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN CAIRO AND MOSCOW.

4. PERES ADDED THAT ALGERIA HAD PURCHASED TANKS IN THE USSR FOR EGYPT AND THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAD PURCHASED MIRAGE AIRCRAFT FROM FRANCE DURING THE FRENCH EMBARGO, SOME OF WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN TRANSFERRED TO EGYPT. IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO PERES, EGYPT IS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING FURTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT OF VARIOUS KINDS FROM WESTERN EUROPE, INCLUDING BRITAIN AND FRANCE.  
VELIOTES

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## Message Attributes

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